2nd August 1933]

A.—(a) Government received a petition early in March last from certain councillors and other citizens of the municipality alleging certain irregularities in the municipal administration.

(b) & (c) The Collector was asked to make a detailed enquiry, only if, after obtaining the Chairman's remarks on the allegations, the Collector was convinced of the truth of at least some of the allegations. Government were satisfied on the report of the Collector, after a preliminary enquiry, that sufficient grounds did not exist for a detailed investigation. They see no need to place this report of the Collector on the table of the house.

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"May I know, Sir, whether we are to take it that the word of the Chairman is to be the last word on the subject. I am asking with reference to clauses (b) and (c)?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"The Collector on his own enquiries satisfied himself that the allegations are not well founded and Government considered that sufficient grounds did not exist for a detailed investigation."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"Is it not clear from the answer that the Collector has not made any enquiry except to ask for some opinion from the Chairman and that he is precluded by the order of the Government from making any investigation?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"He had been asked to make an enquiry if he was satisfied that there was a case for such an enquiry. He has reported to the Government that in his opinion there is no necessity for an enquiry, and the enquiry has been dropped."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"Is it not clear from the answer that the Collector is asked not to make any enquiry unless he is satisfied from the Chairman's remarks alone that there is ground for investigation, that he called for the remarks of the Chairman alone and that there has been no investigation at all?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"It is for him to decide whether investigation is necessary. The Collector will be in possession of the facts of the case in order to satisfy himself as to whether there should be an enquiry."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know, Sir, what the nature is of the grave irregularities complained of?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"I am afraid I must ask for notice if I am to give a list of all the allegations."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"The opinion of the Chairman and that of the Collector thereon conclude the matter, I take it. Is it so?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"The Collector reported to the Government that there is no case for an enquiry."